



## North Central Region Civil Air Patrol

# North Central Region News

Volume 2006 November

### Members Gather for Region Conference

Members from around North Central Region gathered in Des Moines October 27-29 for the NCR Region Conference. National Vice Commander Gen. Amy Courter was a special guest.

The Sgt Philip J. Svitak American Patriot Award was presented to Cass County Composite Squadron, of Missouri Wing. Fremont Cadet Squadron of Nebraska Wing was named region Squadron of Distinction for 2006. Many other awards and honors were conveyed.

Additional details are found throughout this issue of the *North Central Region News*.

### Mais Assumes MOWG Command

Missouri Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. John Mais has been appointed the Missouri Wing Commander. Former Missouri Wing Group II Commander Maj. Edward Mueth has been appointed the Missouri Wing Vice Commander. Col. Emmitt Williams will remain as the Missouri Wing Chief of Staff.

To fill the vacancy created with Maj. Mueth's promotion, Capt. (Dr.) David A. Miller has been appointed the Missouri Wing Group II Commander and promoted to the rank of Major.

Lt. Col. Mary Fuller, Missouri Wing Director of Personnel, reports no additional changes to Missouri Wing staff.

### Col. Sean P. Fagan Named NCR Commander

Colonel Sean P. Fagan has been named North Central Region Commander of Civil Air Patrol by national commander Gen. Tony Pineda. Pineda made the announcement in an email October 29. Fagan replaces Col. Steve Kuddes.

Colonel Fagan, served as the Commander for Missouri Wing before being selected as the North Central Region Commander and is currently responsible for CAP operations in seven states. Here he oversees 4,850 members, 53 aircraft, around 75 vehicles and an annual budget of over a quarter of a million dollars.

Colonel Fagan was born 17 November 1961 in St. Louis Missouri. He is attending Concordia University for his Bachelor of Arts Degree in the Management of Criminal Justice and is a graduate of the Greater St. Louis Police Academy, St. Louis University Medical School course for Medical Legal Death Investigations, with related Masters course in Forensic Death Investigations, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Supervision School.

Colonel Fagan currently works as a full time Police Sergeant with the Florissant Missouri Police Department. He started as a Police Officer in 1982. In 1986 he was promoted to Detective and worked various assignments in the Bureau of Criminal Investigations, including obtaining the position of Supervisor on the Greater St. Louis Major Case Squad, which he still participates in today. In 2000 he was promoted to Sergeant and currently work in the Bureau of Field Operations as a Supervisor / Watch Commander.

Colonel Fagan first joined the Civil Air Patrol in 1995 with the Mid Rivers Senior Squadron. He transferred to the St. Charles Composite Squadron, eventually becoming Squadron Commander. He later served on staff with Group II, Missouri Wing as the Group's Inspector General. Colonel Fagan currently serves as one of five members for the Civil Air Patrol's National Committee on Homeland Security and Counter Drug Operations.



### **Kansas Wing Members Killed in Oklahoma Crash**

Father and son Kansas Wing members Markham L. Sageser, 46, and Ryan Markham Sageser, 17, were killed and two others were injured after the small plane they were in crashed in a pasture near Hominy, Oklahoma November 5.

Ryan and Markham Sageser, both of Wichita, were pronounced dead at the crash site. Injured in the crash were John Phillip Rice, 18, and Ryan Samuel Biedron, 18, both of Wichita. They were transported by helicopter to St. John Medical Center in Tulsa with leg and internal injuries.

The 2003 Cessna Skyhawk, piloted by Ryan Sageser, was flying back to Wichita from Tulsa when it crashed at about 1:45 a.m. He and Biedron were apparently ejected from the plane after the crash, while Markham Sageser and Rice were pinned in the wreckage for several hours.

One of the injured passengers apparently used a cell phone to notify authorities after the crash, but it took hours before the wreckage was located, about 200 yards from a dirt road. Friends said the four on board were returning home from a Ben Folds concert in Tulsa.

All three teens were seniors at Bishop Carroll High School in Wichita.

The weather, although overcast at the time of the crash, probably wasn't a factor, said Bill Gamble, an investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board.

The NTSB and Federal Aviation Administration are investigating the cause of the crash.

### **“Commander's Call” by Col. Sean P. Fagan**

Fellow Officer and Cadets, as your new North Central Region Commander, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and talk a moment about the Region.

I started out in the Civil Air Patrol, as I am sure many of you have, to serve my community and state. Two of my son's were a part of a local squadron and after several visits to their squadron, I realized how dedicated both the Officers and Cadets were to the program. I also saw the valuable contribution that the Civil Air Patrol made to the community and to the mentoring and training of the cadet corps. With this in mind, I joined this squadron and have been “hooked” on the Civil Air Patrol ever since.

I'm sure that with this sudden change of Command, many of you are wondering what the future of the North Central Region holds. As the Missouri Wing Commander and now as the Region Commander, it is obvious to me that the past Commanders of the North Central Region have worked very hard to make this the best Region in the nation. It is my hope that with your assistance along with your continued service and dedication, that we will be able to maintain this honorable tradition and continue to see the North Central Region grow and succeed.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you in the North Central Region. Together, we can continue to see this Region do great things.

Semper Vigilance!  
Colonel Sean P. Fagan  
Commander, North Central Region



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### **Fagan Named NCR Commander**

*Continued from Page 1*



Colonel Fagan's Civil Air Patrol awards include the National Commanders Commendation Metal, the Brigadier General Charles E. “Chuck” Yeager Aerospace Education Achievement Award, three Commanders Commendations, the Grover Loening Award, and Search and Rescue Find Ribbon. He is attending Concordia University pursuing a degree in Management in Criminal Justice.

Colonel Fagan and his wife Karen, have three children. Daniel, a Eaker Cadet, currently serves in the United States Army. Joseph is a Pipefitter with local union 562. John is a senior at Francis Howell North High School. He plans on attending Rolla University for a degree in Engineering.

**SGT PHILIP J. SVITAK AMERICAN PATRIOT AWARD  
Presented to Cass County Composite Squadron**

**Here is a transcript of the presentation ceremony:**

Phil Svitak was a member of the Fremont Cadet Squadron from 1985-1989. While he progressed in the Cadet Program, he excelled in Emergency Services as a Ground Team Member. Phil was always the first one ready to go on an exercise or RECAP. Phil was in charge of the Ground Team vehicle and equipment. It was his responsibility to make sure we had all of the equipment and that the vehicle was always in a ready state. He loved CAP and epitomized the Air Force Rescue motto "that others may live."

Phil joined the United States Army shortly after graduation from high school. He left the Army after his first enlistment but missed it so much that he rejoined after a short taste of civilian life. Phil was a Flight Engineer and door gunner on the MH-47E Chinook helicopter.

After the attacks on 9/11, Phil received orders and left after Thanksgiving 2001 for Afghanistan.

On the morning of March 4, 2002 another MH-47E Chinook, call sign RAZOR 3, had encountered a strong enemy force on a 10,000 foot mountain named Takur Ghar. After taking enemy fire, a Navy SEAL team member fell from the helicopter near the enemy but the helicopter was able to land safely away from the hostile forces.



*SGT Philip J. Svitak*

RAZOR 1, piloted by CWS Chuck Gant and RAZOR 2 were to mount a rescue operation. RAZOR 1 was the helicopter on which Sgt Phil Svitak was the Flight Engineer. As RAZOR 1 neared the landing zone on top of Takur Ghar they began to take fire from a bunker and from several other directions at the same time. This caused serious damage to the helicopter including loss of the right side engine. Phil was manning the door gun on the right side of the helicopter where heavy hostile fire was being received.

I am now going to read from a letter that RAZOR 1's pilot wrote to Phil's parents:

"Because Phil was able to return effective fire, he bought the helicopter just a few precious moments that meant the difference between total loss of the aircraft and its occupants, and the controlled landing that allowed most of the rescue force to exit, still under fire.

People that have never done it can't fully grasp what it takes to be a crewman and gunner on a heavy combat assault helicopter. An infantryman is able to crawl along on the ground and move carefully into position. He can immediately dive behind a rock if he comes under fire. He can stop his forward movement and wait and think. Phil did not have that luxury. The helicopter dictated his point in space, high and exposed. He had to gut it out and remain in position, while the heli-

copter, under fire, was on a final approach. The bunker was on Phil's side. He remained exposed, behind the gun, without complaint.

Many warriors try to lay claim to the mantra "never leave a fallen comrade". But it was the crew of RAZOR 1 that knew the situation on the 10,000 foot mountain in Afghanistan called Takur Ghar. And, in broad daylight, with no fire support, completely on its own, RAZOR 1 made the conscious decision to follow through with a rescue effort. It was Sergeant Phil Svitak, Flight Engineer of Chinook 475, call sign RAZOR 1, that lost his life, his hands on his gun, defending his helicopter, while attempting to save a fallen comrade.

Because of Phil, the Ranger quick reaction force was able to gain control of Takur Ghar. And because of Phil, they did, indeed, leave no one behind.

This was the Battle of Takur Ghar as it was fought by Phil and the crew of RAZOR 1.

I am forever grateful to have had the opportunity to serve with Phil, to have witnessed his gallantry, and to be inspired by his heroism."

To present the first Sgt Philip J. Svitak American Patriot Award is Phil's mother Mrs. Rosanne Svitak. Joining her is the pilot in command of RAZOR 1 on March 4, 2002 CWS Chuck Gant.

After the winner is announced, I will read the citation to accompany the award.

(Mrs. Svitak and CWS Gant announced Cass County Composite Squadron)

**Citation:**

This award is hereby presented to the Cass County Composite Squadron, Missouri Wing this 28th Day of October, 2006.

(Continued on page 4)



### **Letter from SGT Svitak's Commander**

On behalf of the men of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment and the Darkhorse Battalion I would like to thank you for the incredible honor you have bestowed upon Sergeant Phil Svitak. The creation of the SGT Phil Svitak American Patriot Award serves as a fitting homage to a dedicated Soldier, devoted father and loving husband. Phil truly embodied the warrior spirit of our unit, and held tightly to the ideals instilled in him by the Civil Air Patrol. He took his responsibilities to God, country and family very seriously and set the example throughout our formation for service to our Nation and his fellow man. It is fitting that such a man be recognized by an organization that was so instrumental in his development, growth and leadership abilities. We would like to thank the Civil Air Patrol for this significant recognition of SGT Phil Svitak's contributions to our Nation, our Army and the American people. Please accept this certificate in appreciation for this inaugural event.

We hope that the first recipient of the SGT Phil Svitak American Patriot Award will remember the sacrifice of this brave warrior, and that future recipients will also embody the spirit of what Phil stood for and protected with his very life - Duty, Honor, Country. Thank you again for this distinctive recognition of his sacrifice.

John R. Evans, Lt Col, US Army  
Commander

### **Sgt Philip J. Svitak American Patriot Award Citation**

(Continued from page 3)

The Cass County Composite Squadron honor guard has participated in 18 major activities and numerous other activities since being chartered in November 2004. They have presented the colors in front of over 620,000 spectators at events such as ST. Louis Rams football games, Kansas City Royals baseball games, Kansas City Special Olympics, NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series races, Indy Racing League races, NASCAR Busch series races, and NEXTEIL cup series races. Additional events include the Order of Eagles, Civil Air Patrol national board meeting, Missouri Wing conference and commander's call, and countless parades and other activities.

The Cass County Composite Squadron won the 2006 North Central Region color guard competition and represented the North Central Region at the national competition.

The cadets of the honor guard are under 18 years of age but are often mistaken for active duty Air Force personnel due to their precision performance, military bearing and outstanding uniforms. The honor guard members spend thousands of dollars of personal funds for equipment, uniforms and travel. Though they are volunteers, they literally live a Civil Air Patrol life.

The Cass County Composite Squadron is very deserving of the SGT Philip J. Svitak American Patriot Award. Their love of country is evident by the professional and unselfish way they demonstrate it through the performance of their honor guard. Their sense of duty compels them to perform to the highest of standards in the tradition of the armed services of the United

### **Offutt Cadets Take to the Skies**

Seventeen members of the General Curtis E. LeMay Offutt Composite Squadron received orientation flights in UH-1 Blackhawk helicopters operated by the Nebraska Army National Guard. Army Major Darin Mongon, Captain Brett Scholtz, Captain Grant Siedenbueg, and CW5 Steve Stone conducted the flights.

Prior to the flights the cadets received a briefing from the flight crew and were given the opportunity to ask questions. Once all the questions were answered the cadets

boarded the helicopters and were taken on a 20-minute ride. They flew across the Missouri River, Beaver Lake and areas where the cadets practice for search and rescue missions.

Following the flights the cadets discussed the differences between fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft. This was the first helicopter flight for all the cadets and the first ever flight for cadets Rachael Schnitker and Roger Schnitker. All the cadets agreed that the flights were a lot of fun and that they were ready to go again.



### Fremont Named Region Squadron of Distinction



Fremont Cadet Squadron of Nebraska Wing was named region Squadron of Distinction for 2006 during the region conference, October 27-30. Here is the text of the award ceremony announcement:

The competition for the North Central Region was exceptionally tight this year. Six

squadrons from four wings were in the running. Lt Colonel Regena Aye, North Central Region Cadet Programs officer, developed a points system to help determine the top unit. The system helped to narrow the field down to two squadrons but it was a near deadlock. Unfortunately, one squadron was the home unit of Lt Colonel Aye and the other squadron was Colonel Kuddes' home unit. Another region commander had a similar situation. The other region commander and Colonel Kuddes traded their information and each selected the squadron of distinction for the other. Neither provided any assistance to the other so as to provide not only a non-political appearing situation but also a deliberately non-punishing decision.

The North Central Region Squadron of Distinction for 2006 is the Fremont Cadet Squadron, Nebraska Wing.

The Fremont Cadet Squadron is the oldest Civil Air Patrol squadron in Nebraska. With one of the most active cadet programs in the wing, Fremont has not only recruited new cadets but has a 95 per cent retention rate for first year and following year cadets. The squadron participates in numerous public activities with their color guard and emergency services teams. Six times per year, the squadron assists in setting up the avenue of flags which is a display of over 873 veteran casket flags on a seven and a half mile stretch of one of the city's main arteries. Numerous VFW and American Legion posts honor the squadron every year for their cadet program. The squadron has a model rocketry and radio controlled aircraft program where cadets have built and flown model rockets and radio controlled aircraft. The squadron's goal is to start a nearspace program. The squadron also has an adventurer program with the local boy scout programs.

Fremont's commitment to aerospace education has resulted in a second to none relationship with the science department of the Fremont middle school. This is evident by the huge success of their annual aerospace education fair which attracts large numbers of middle school science students and qualifies them for extra credit in their science classes. Annually, almost 100 Fremont area youth receive EAA young eagle flights through the Fremont cadet squadron's sponsorship. The Fremont cadets also have the highest rate of cadet orientation rides in the Nebraska Wing. The professionalism of the officers and the maturity of the cadets of the Fremont Cadet Squadron make them one of the most sought after organizations by local government agencies for assistance in public events and disaster drills. The singular events of the Fremont cadet squadron's cadet program make them very deserving of the squadron of distinction. Adding their work in emergency services and their service to country make them one of the top squadrons in the Civil Air Patrol.

Accepting for the Fremont Cadet Squadron is their commander Captain Dave Proctor.

### Marking Earns Spaatz Award



Cadet Col. Susanna B. Marking, of Custer Composite Squadron, is South Dakota Wing's first General Carl A. Spaatz Award recipient since 1988, and the first female cadet to earn the award in South Dakota.

The award ceremony was held October 21 at the National Guard Armory in Pierre. Marking said she is very proud to have received the award.

"The purpose of the cadet program is to train kids in leadership skills and to help them develop self-discipline and confidence," Lt. Col. Marking said.

Susanna Marking feels CAP has given her leadership skills, self-discipline and confidence.

"When I started I was really shy," she said. "But it's given me a lot more confidence in everything that I do."

Marking is only the eighth cadet from South Dakota to earn the award since its inception in 1964. On average, only two cadets out of 1,000 are able to earn the honor. Marking holds Spaatz Award number 1614.

"It's a really cool thing," she said. "It's a symbol of all the hard work I've done in the CAP." Marking joined CAP in 2000 when she was 13 years old. Marking is a student at South Dakota State in Brookings, SD, with a double major in communication studies and sociology and a minor in Spanish.

**Decorations Presented at the  
North Central Region Conference  
October 27-29**

**Meritorious Service Awards**

- C/ LT COLONEL SUSANNA B. MARKING - Awarded for service while performing as Encampment Cadet Commander at the Joint Dakota Cadet Leadership Encampment from 7 July 2006-16 July 2006
- C/LT COLONEL DANIEL W. PALMQUIST - Awarded for service while performing as the Cadet Commander of the North Central Region Encampment from 30 June-7 July 2006.
- MAJOR BRANDON BUTTERS - Awarded for service while performing as the Executive Officer of the North Central Region Encampment from 30 June-7 July 2006.
- MAJOR ROGER WORDEN - Awarded for service as the North Central Region Counter Drug Officer from 15 June 2002-20 August 2005.
- MAJOR DIANNA BUSH - Awarded for service in the Critical Incident Stress Management program of the Missouri Wing from 2 Feb-5 July 05
- LT COLONEL NEIL TREMAYNE - Awarded for service as the North Central Region Assistant Counter Drug Officer from 15 June 2002-20 August 2005
- COLONEL JOHN LEHR - Awarded by BG Amy Courter for service as a member of the National Headquarters Professional Development Focus Group from 1 December 2005-1 August 2006

**Exceptional Service Awards**

- CAPTAIN ANDREW TREIMAN - Awarded for service from 15 January-8 August 2004 by the Rocky Mountain Region. Though he was deputy cadet commander of the Grand Forks Composite Squadron, North Dakota Wing, he assisted the Central Montana Composite Squadron, Montana Wing to rebuild the Cadet component of the squadron.
- MAJOR CYNTHIA HENTSCHEL - Awarded for service as the North Central Region Finance Officer from 15 June 2002-20 August 2005.
- MAJOR (NOW LT COLONEL) TROY CAMPBELL - Awarded for service as the North Central Region Aerospace Officer and Webmaster from 15 June 2002-20 August 2005.
- LT COLONEL MIKE KRENTZ - Awarded for service as the North Central Region Vice Commander from 15 June 2002-15 April 2005.
- LT COLONEL REGENA AYE - Awarded for service as the Commandant of Cadets at the North Central Region Encampment from 1 May 2006-1 August 2006.
- LT COLONEL JAMES PEACE - Awarded for service with the North Central Region Cadet programs from 1S June 2002-20 August 2005.
- LT COLONEL JAMES PEACE - Awarded for service as the North Central Region En-

campment Commander from 1 May 2006-1 August 2006.

- COLONEL MARY DONLEY - Awarded for service as the Director of the North Central Region Staff College from 15 June 2002-20 August 2005.
- COLONEL JOHN LEHR - Awarded for service as the North Central Region Professional Development Officer from 15 June 2002-20 August 2005
- COLONEL SHEILA WALDORF - Awarded for service as the North Central region Advisor to the Commander and to the NCR800 Squadron from 15 June 2002-20 August 2005
- COLONEL RALPH RISSMILLER - Awarded for service as the North Central Region Inspector General from 15 June 2002-20 August 2005





**Region Awards Presented at the  
North Central Region Conference  
October 27-29**

- **LOGISTICS OFFICER OF THE YEAR** - Colonel Joe Casler-Missouri Wing and North Central Region HQ - Colonel Casler was instrumental in disposing of obsolete and useless equipment. He accounted for every piece of missing equipment and as a result the Missouri Wing was removed from logistics freeze.
- **SAFETY OFFICER OF THE YEAR** - 1st Lt Gerald English, Cass County Composite Sqdn, Missouri Wing - Lt English produced numerous PowerPoint presentations for ground team, pilot and everyday threat briefings. The PowerPoint presentations made for very interesting and informative safety briefings
- **FRANK G. BREWER MEMORIAL AEROSPACE EDUCATION OFFICER OF THE YEAR** - Lt Colonel Mike Thomas, 99th Pursuit Composite Squadron, Nebraska Wing - As the Nebraska Wing Encampment Commander, he set up Drug Demand Reduction classes and briefings by the Tuskegee Airman. He also developed PowerPoint presentations on model rocketry. Cadets then constructed and launched water, single and multistage rockets. This resulted in 42 of 43 cadets earning their Model Rocketry Badges.
- **COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER OF THE YEAR** - Major Ed Moss, Offutt Composite Squadron, Nebraska Wing - Major Ed Moss reactivated the VHF/FM net resulting in the licensing of many cadets and officers in the eastern Nebraska area. Major Moss also developed a system using digital photographs and 6 month hands-on confirmation to maintain positive control over all of the communication equipment in the squadron
- **PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER OF THE YEAR** - Captain Al Pabon, Minnesota Wing - Captain Pabon publishes a very informative and professional newsletter for the Minnesota Wing. Coupling excellent photography and writing skills, he is frequently published in the online and written publications of the Civil Air Patrol. Captain Pabon was the National Public Affairs Officer of the Year as awarded in Reno in August 2006
- **CADET OF THE YEAR** - C/Lt Colonel Patrick Renfro, Emporia Composite Squadron, Kansas Wing/C/Lt - Colonel Renfro is an active member in Aerospace Education, the Cadet Program, and Emergency Services of the Squadron, Wing, Region and National levels. Cadet Renfro is also active in the Kansas Wing Cadet Advisory Council, has participated in five encampments and four National Special Activities.
- **REGION OFFICER OF THE YEAR** - Lt Colonel Bonnie Casler, NCR800 Sqdn and Region HQ - Lt Colonel Casler was commander of the NCRS00 Squadron for 8 years. During this time, the squadron participated in over 300 events per year. Over half of the events were to provide the Honor Guard for the funerals of veterans and active duty veterans who died in Iraq and Afghanistan. Lt Colonel Casler is the North Central Region Recruiting and retention Officer. Under her leadership, the North Central Region is the only Region in CAP to show positive growth in membership during all three quarters of 2006.

**McGillick Earns Mitchell**



Cadet 2nd Lt. Alex McGillick of Minnesota Wing recently received the General Billy Mitchell Award from Major Alan Matson, Group 2 commander.

McGillick, a member of the Hutchinson Composite Squadron, joined CAP in 2002. Since that time he has attended Minnesota's Flight Academy, three Encampments, and currently serves as the squadron's flight commander.

**Crow Wing Squadron  
Cadet Honored**



Cadet 2nd Lt. Sarah Pfingsten, cadet commander for the Crow Wing Composite Squadron, has been named 2006 Youth Volunteer of the Year by the Brainerd, MN, Jaycess and the Brainerd Lakes Community Action program.

Pfingsten, who earned her private pilot's license in August, two weeks after her 17th birthday, credits CAP for building her confidence and leadership skills.

## **Missouri Wing Holds Conference**

The annual Missouri Wing Conference was held at the beautiful Tan-Tar-A resort in mid-Missouri at the Lake of the Ozarks during the weekend of 6-9 October 2006.

CAP National Commander, Maj. Gen. Antonio Pineda, was the Guest of Honor.

Other guests included: Col. Steve Kuddes, then North Central Region Commander, Col. Daniel Levitch, newly appointed Southeast Region Commander, and Lt. Col. Mike Pederson, CAP-USAF North Central Liaison Region Commander.

This year's Wing Award winners include:

Squadron of the Year: Trail of Tears Composite Squadron, Capt. Neil LaVanchy, Commander

Senior Member of the Year: MSgt. Michael Mudry, Plans & Programs Officer, Missouri Wing Headquarters

Cadet of the Year: c/Lt. Col. Rebecca Lurten, Cadet Programs Staff, Missouri Wing Headquarters

## **Ground team Makes Non-distress Find**

It was a dark and stormy night ... then an ELT went off.

During the recent stormy weather in Missouri, five commercial aircraft reported hearing an ELT near the St. Clair regional airport. Responding to Air Force Rescue Coordination Center mission 06M1971, a Missouri Wing Group II ground UDF team consisting of Lt. Col. Carolyn Rice (ground team leader), Lt. Col. Ken Riddle, Capt. David Miller, and 1Lt. Steve Brust quickly determined the source of the ELT to be a Cessna 182 hangered at the airport. The aircraft owner was contacted and the ELT subsequently disabled. Group II Commander, Maj. Edward Mueth, served as Incident Commander for the mission. Because of the weather, no search aircraft were launched.

"I was excited to participate in my first real AFRCC mission. Although cold and wet, we were able to find the ELT and still be home in time for the evening news." said Capt. Miller.

## **Newspaper Highlights Home Schooled Cadets**

The Minneapolis Star and Tribune visited Viking Composite Squadron of Eden Prairie, MN, recently. The squadron, named National Squadron of Merit in 2005, has proven to have an important role for home schooled children, giving them social interaction that is not as easily found in the home school environment.

"For home-schoolers it can be true that there isn't as much social activity because you're at home most of the time," 17 year old Rebecca Waddell told the paper. "But having CAP has given us this great thing that we all have in common, so it's easier for us to come together and socialize, both with other home-schoolers and with non-home-schoolers. We're like one big cadet family."

According to the newspaper, about half the cadets in the 100-member squadron are home schooled.

## **Iowa Adult Members Receive Army Public Service Awards**

Adjutant General of Iowa has presented the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Public Service to Iowa Wing's Col Ralph Tomlinson, Lt Col, Mike McCoy, Maj John Halbrook, Maj Doug Jansen, and Capt Roger Elliott.

In addition, Col Tomlinson was also presented with the Department of the Army Outstanding Civilian Service Award.

Maj Gen Ron Dardis, Iowa AG presided over the ceremony and CAP National Commander, Maj Gen Tony Pineda also participated.

It is believed to be the first time that these awards have been conferred upon CAP officers and the first time Army medals will be pinned on CAP chests since WWII.

These officers were presented with these awards because of their efforts and support of the re-organization of the Iowa Wing over the past two years.



**The North Central Region News is published monthly by North Central Region, Civil Air Patrol, LtC Mike Marek, editor and NCR/PAO; Col. Sean P. Fagan, Region Commander.**

**Please send submissions by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month to:**

**pao@ncr.cap.gov**



## **Offutt Squadron Anniversary Honored by Gubernatorial Proclamation**

Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman signed a proclamation designating December 3-9 2006, as Curtis E. LeMay Offutt Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol week honoring the unit on their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The General Curtis E. LeMay Offutt Composite Squadron was originally chartered on 1 December 1956 under the command of Louis A. Vance. General Curtis E. LeMay, former Commander Strategic Air Command and later Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force, presented the squadron's charter.

The proclamation recognized that the unit's members are "prepared to donate their time and resources for the benefit of their fellow Americans through aerial and ground search and rescue operations, humanitarian and mercy flights, and many other unselfish acts in time of emergency."

It goes on to say "Members of Curtis E. LeMay Offutt Composite Squadron of the CAP participated in numerous emergency, humanitarian, and counter-drug missions during the squadron's 50 year history with the intent and purpose of saving the lives of fellow Nebraskans" The signing ceremony was attended by the unit Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Darrell McMillan, the unit's Deputy Commander for Seniors, Lieutenant Colonel Dave Waite, and Deputy Commander for Cadets, Captain Jason Johnsen.



*From left to right, Captain Jason Johnsen, Lieutenant Colonel Darrell McMillan, Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman, and Lieutenant Colonel Dave Waite at the signing of the proclamation designating December 3-9 2006, as Curtis E. LeMay Offutt Composite Squadron CAP Week in the state of Nebraska.*

## **MNWG Cadets Attend NCOS/BCOS**



About 60 cadets of the Minnesota Wing attended the annual Non-Commissioned Officer School (NCOS) and Basic Commissioned Officer Course (BCOC) held October 19-22 at Camp Ripley. The 53,000-acre National Guard training facility served as the backdrop for cadets learning skills to be effective NCOs and officers.

"A lot of time this is a cadet's first opportunity to drill a flight, or any type of command or authority experience at all," said Captain Josh Puhl, commander of the leadership schools.

Cadets went through a week packed with training lectures, discussions, team building exercises, student led

classes, and drill as they gained a greater understanding of how a squadron runs, their role in the command structure, and how to be an effective leader.

NCOS is the second part of the Wing's cadet Integrated Leadership Program. To accomplish the transition to non-commissioned officer, cadets attend classroom instruction on various topics and then apply what they've learned during practical exercises.

"They'll learn about their command voice, how to drill, how to carry themselves as an NCO, and then go out the next hour and practice those skills, which is the real magical part of this program," Puhl said.

NCOS has been conducted in Minnesota since 1999. This year's class included 40-45 cadets with a cadre consisting of 12 cadet staff members who are former NCOS graduates and now cadet officers.

"It's neat to watch a cadet you knew two years ago become commander or a seminar leader mentoring other cadets," Puhl said.

BCOC is step 3 in the Wing's Integrated Leadership Program. The focus for the 17 cadets who attended was more academic, featuring advanced topics like group dynamics as they relate to leading and instructing people.

"The BCOC approach is less drill and more tabletop with some sort of special project assigned," Puhl said. "Each class has to develop a project, work at it, and then make a presentation to cadets and senior staff at the end of the course."

## North Central Region News

### Photo Essay



North Central Region Conference  
October 27-29, 2006

